

From: Anthony Infanti ainfanti19@gmail.com
Subject: Assistance with Mediating FOIA Request
Date: May 31, 2020 at 16:42
To: ogis@nara.gov



Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to enlist your assistance. I made a FOIA request of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (No. NRC2019619534) in September 2019 for information regarding Hristo Ivanov, a deceased alien who also happens to have been my birth father. This request was granted in part and denied in part. I was grateful to receive the information that I was provided; however, my request was denied insofar as it concerned a Gray Audiograph Disc in his file. As you might understand, I am eager to hear what might be on that disc, never having met my birth father and only recently having discovered his identity.

I followed up the denial letter with several emails expressing my understanding at USCIS's inability to process the media due to its lack of the requisite technology, but offering to pay to have the file converted to a format that they could process. (A cursory Google search turned up several companies who can perform this service at a relatively nominal cost.) This offer was promptly rebuffed, and I decided to file a formal appeal reiterating that offer in the hope that it might be taken more seriously in that context.

I sent my formal appeal (No. APP2019501805) on November 25, 2019, and a few weeks later received an acknowledgment indicating that the appeal was received by USCIS on December 3, 2019. It appears that the appeal was denied on the same day that the acknowledgment letter was written (both the acknowledgment and the denial letters are dated December 9, 2019), which bespeaks little or no thought having been given to the appeal. I understand that I could file an action in U.S. District Court at this point to press my case further; however, I would rather not have to litigate this matter, which seems eminently resolvable. I was hoping that you might be able to mediate a resolution with USCIS that would (1) have them obtain one or more estimates for converting the disc to a usable format; (2) send the estimates to me to make sure that the cost is not unreasonable; (3) assuming the cost is acceptable, allow me to pay for the conversion of the disc to a processable format; (4) have the third-party perform the conversion; (5) have USCIS review the recording to determine whether it can be released to me; and (6) assuming that there are no legitimately applicable FOIA exemptions, release a copy of the recording to me.

To aid you in helping to mediate this FOIA request, I have attached my appeal letter as well as scans of the other correspondence with USCIS that I have in my files. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Anthony Infanti



FOIA
Appeal.docx



Infanti USCIS
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